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C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 000884

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [EUN](#)

SUBJECT: GAERC AND EUROPEAN COUNCIL DEMARCHE - IGC AND
CHOICE OF COMMISSION HEAD TO DOMINATE DISCUSSIONS

REF: STATE 125932

Classified By: AMBASSADOR JAMES KENNY FOR REASONS 1.4 (b) AND (d)

1. (C) DCM AND EMBOFFS PASSED REFTEL POINTS JUNE 9 TO DFA EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENT KEVIN CONMY AND DFA EXTERNAL RELATIONS CHIEF KEVIN DOWLING. BOTH NOTED THAT MUCH OF THE JUNE 14-15 GAERC AND THE JUNE 17-18 EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING WOULD BE DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION OF THE EU CONSTITUTION AND THE CHOICE OF THE NEXT HEAD OF THE EU COMMISSION, ALTHOUGH THE SCHEDULE DOES PROVIDE TIME FOR SOME FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE. THE GAERC WILL DISCUSS OUTSTANDING CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES IN THE MORNING AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES DURING LUNCH WITH THE AFTERNOON SESSION DEALING WITH PREPARATION FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND WHATEVER INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WERE LEFT OVER FROM LUNCH.

2. (C) THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL WILL DEVOTE JUNE 17 TO THE EU CONSTITUTION WITH THE CHOICE OF THE NEW HEAD OF THE EU COMMISSION TO BE DISCUSSED AT DINER. ON JUNE 18 THE COUNCIL WILL DEAL WITH ITS OWN AGENDA ITEMS, PRIMARILY EU COUNTERTERRORISM ACTIVITIES. IT WILL THEN REVERT TO THE IGC FORMAT TO COMPLETE DISCUSSIONS ON THE CONSTITUTION WITH THE INTENTION OF COMPLETING ITS WORK BY LUNCH WITH THE CHAMPAGNE ON ICE FOR THE "CELEBRATION."

3. (C) ASKED ABOUT THE CHOICE OF A NEW HEAD OF THE EU COMMISSION, COMNY SAID THE TAOISEACH HAD DISCUSSED THIS ONLY IN HIS TETE A TETE MEETINGS WITH EUROPEAN LEADERS AND THE INFORMATION WAS BEING VERY CLOSELY HELD. IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL POLITICS SURROUNDING THE SELECTION OF A NEW COMMISSION HEAD, THE FACT THAT THE CANDIDATE MUST ALSO BE APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WAS GREATLY COMPLICATING THE DISCUSSIONS. CONMY REITERATED THE COMMON VIEW HERE THAT AHERN IS NOT HIMSELF INTERESTED IN THE JOB.

4. (C) WITH REGARD TO THE EU CONSTITUTION, COMNY SAID THE IRISH REMAINED "QUIETLY CONFIDENT" THAT THE DEAL CAN BE DONE. THE TAOISEACH'S MOST RECENT TOUR OF EU CAPITALS HAD NOT CHANGED THIS EVALUATION, ALTHOUGH IT WAS CLEAR THAT A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME WILL STRETCH THE "LIMITS OF POLITICAL FLEXIBILITY" NOT ONLY IN MADRID AND WARSAW, BUT ALSO IN PARIS, BERLIN AND LONDON. PUTTING THE RIGHT PACKAGE TOGETHER WOULD BE DIFFICULT, ACCORDING TO CONMY, BUT THE DEAL IS THERE, IF THE WILL IS THERE TO DO IT.
KENNY